

Suvi Aika in support of SB 2204

THANK YOU FOR SUBMITTING THIS BILL.

I ACTUALLY HAVE A VERY HAPPY STORY ABOUT MY EXPERIENCE WITH OUR SCHOOL DISTRICT - AISD AND OUR HOME SCHOOL - ZILLER ELEMENTARY.

MY SON ~~HANSI KUMAR~~ BEGAN PPCD WHEN HE WAS THREE YEARS OLD. AT THE TIME, HE^{was} DEFINITELY TRAPPED IN HIS OWN LITTLE WORLD. HE WOULD HEAD BANG, HAND FLAP, DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN INTERACTIVE PLAY WITH OTHER CHILDREN, HAD NO CONVERSATION SPEECH, WAS TRAUMATIZED BY TRANSITIONS, WAS NOT POTTY TRAINED, AND COULD NOT SLEEP THROUGH THE NIGHT. WHEN HE WOULD HAVE A MELTDOWN IN PUBLIC, PEOPLE WOULD ASK IF HE NEEDED AN AMBULANCE BECAUSE HIS INTENSITY WAS SO DRAMATIC, THEY WERE SURE HE HAD BROKEN A BONE. HE HAD BEEN KICKED OUT OR "INVITED NOT TO JOIN" AN ARRAY OF DAYCARES, PRESCHOOLS, EVEN OPEN DOOR WHICH SPECIALIZES IN NONTYPICAL CHILDREN.

AT ZILLER, HANSI FINALLY WAS IN AN APPROPRIATE SETTING, WHERE HIS TEACHERS HAD THE TRAINING THEY NEEDED TO MEET HIS NEEDS. HE THRIVED!

(3)

PROGRESS THEY ARE MAKING IN A
THERAPEUTIC SETTING.

PROVIDING TRAINING AND SUPPORT FOR
EDUCATORS AND SERVICES TO AFFECTED
CHILDREN BENEFITS EVERYONE. THOSE
CHILDREN WILL HAVE THE CHANCE
TO GROW UP TO BE FUNCTIONAL,
TAX-PAYING (1) MEMBERS OF OUR
COMMUNITY.

THANK YOU AGAIN. I AM SUBMITTING
THIS TESTIMONY NOT JUST ON MY
BEHALF BUT FOR ALL THOSE AUTISM
PARENTS OUT THERE WHO ARE NOT
AS FORTUNATE AS ~~ME~~
~~THEY~~
I AM AND DO NOT HAVE THE
OPPORTUNITY TO BE HERE.